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had it taken the lead, as the other did, prior to the transactions of the last winter and spring, it could have produced no more than a slight surface-swell on the then almost universal indifference and apathy.

- 15.—*Photographic Views of Egypt, Past and Present.* By JOSEPH P. THOMPSON. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. 358.

THOUGH very many books, and parts of books, have of late been written about Egypt, we are not certain that the place which this work fills is otherwise supplied. It is the simple, journal-like narrative of what was seen, experienced, and ascertained in Egypt, by one who, as a man of taste, a scholar, and a Christian, knew how to observe and what to look for, who carried his humane sympathies everywhere with him, and whose "Views" are literally "photographic," at once in their manifest fidelity to fact, and in the genial light with which they are suffused from his own sunny temper and cheerful religious faith.

- 16.—*Nature in Disease, illustrated in various Discourses and Essays, to which are added Miscellaneous Writings, chiefly on Medical Subjects.* By JACOB BIGELOW, M. D. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1854. 16mo. pp. 391.

MANY diseases are self-limited, and, though their severity may be mitigated, their course cannot be shortened, by medical treatment. Where there is no organic lesion, and the vital functions have not yet yielded to natural decay, the tendency is toward recovery, not death. In these cases the *vis medicatrix* of nature is the wise physician's chief ground of confidence, and he aims rather to subsidize than to supersede its operation. Such, in brief, is the thesis maintained, with conclusive reasoning and affluent illustration, in the portion of this volume which furnishes its general title. The remaining papers are on a wide range of subjects, are in themselves deeply interesting, and bear a value greatly enhanced by the grave authority which sustains their statements, opinions, and arguments. Had the book appeared earlier in the quarter, our veneration for the author, our sympathy with him in his detestation of the current forms of quackery, and our unshaken confidence in the legitimate medical faculty, in which he has so long borne a leader's staff, would have led us to furnish an elaborate review in place of this hurried notice.